

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 4, at line 14, as follows:

The air bag 12 forms part of a vehicle occupant safety apparatus 10. The apparatus 10 includes an inflation fluid source such as inflator 14 for inflating the air bag 12. The inflator is a schematically illustrated dual stage type inflator 14 as disclosed in U.S. Patent Application Publication No. ~~US-2002-014462-A1~~ US-2002-0144621-A1 published on October 10, 2002, the contents of which is hereby incorporated by reference.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 22, at line 6, as follows:

The central portion 72 has been intentionally weakened by providing the ~~ventral~~ central portion with a width that is less than the width of the first and second terminal ends 68, 70 of the tear strap 66. In addition or alternatively, the central portion 72 can be intentionally weakened by puncturing the central portion 72 provide a series of small holes across the width of the tear strap 66.